

What One Great Independent Newspaper

Says:

Violating Its Own Laws.

IF a company enjoying a monopoly of transportation were to raise its rates in restraint of trade, all the machinery of the Government would be set in motion to prevent and to punish it.

The Interstate Commerce Commission would interfere and the Department of Justice would prosecute the company in the courts.

Yet an exactly similar course will be taken by the Government in disregard of its own laws if the Senate passes the amended Post Office Appropriation Bill, which imposes a rate of four cents a pound on the advertising sections of periodicals and which has already been favorably reported by the committee.

The very thing which the Government forbade the railroads to do it proposes to do itself—to raise rates on the transportation which it monopolizes.

The situation would have a comic opera aspect if it did not threaten a serious loss to the magazines.

They are to be mulcted to pay for the deficit of the stupid and mismanaged Post Office monopoly, yet under conditions the ultimate effect of which will be to restrict one main source of postal revenue while artificially increasing it from another.

Every page of magazine advertising helps to swell the value of Post Office receipts; yet this form of income it is deliberately sought to discourage by making that kind of advertising more expensive.

As an example of combined tax on literature and industry the proposed increase of magazine postal rates is unique among governmental revenue methods.

Why not put a stamp-tax on magazines above a certain bulk and have done with it?

The way to extinguish the Post Office deficit is by promoting the department's usefulness, not by restricting it.

Congress if it adopts this measure will flout the principle of its own laws against the restraint of trade.

February 11, 1911.

The New York World

Note:

The New York World, like all other newspapers, is not affected by the proposed legislation aimed at magazines and periodicals. Without regard to its own interest, it sees the truth and has the nerve to tell it.